GREASE GOES ROCKY HORROR?
SINGALONG EDITION TO BE RELEASED {page 12}

BEAR ELUDES RESCUERS IN ONTARIO
ANIMAL'S HEAD STUCK IN PAIL {page 8}

GO NUDE

THINK BEIGE BLAND?
TRY OUR TIPS FOR FALL
STYLE {page 22}

VANCOUVER metro®

Thursday, July 22, 2010
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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Fireworks light up English Bay

▶ HSBC Celebration of Light attracts thousands to shores of English Bay ▶ Team USA opens the festival ▶ Sponsors guarantee at least two more years of fireworks

▶ Last night's fireworks show seen from the Carmana Plaza Hotel at 1128 Alberni St. Spain is up next on Saturday.

Court

Black released on bail

Former media tycoon a free man after posting $2-million US bond Will appear in Chicago court tomorrow to learn terms of bail {page 6}

Reel women never in distress

Before Jolie's Salt, cinematic heroines kicked butt {pages 14-15}

'Authentic' West Coast food

First Nations cuisine quality fare to be proud of {page 25}

Artist paints the West End

Fight for heritage buildings moves to canvas {page 5}

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THE CAST. PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

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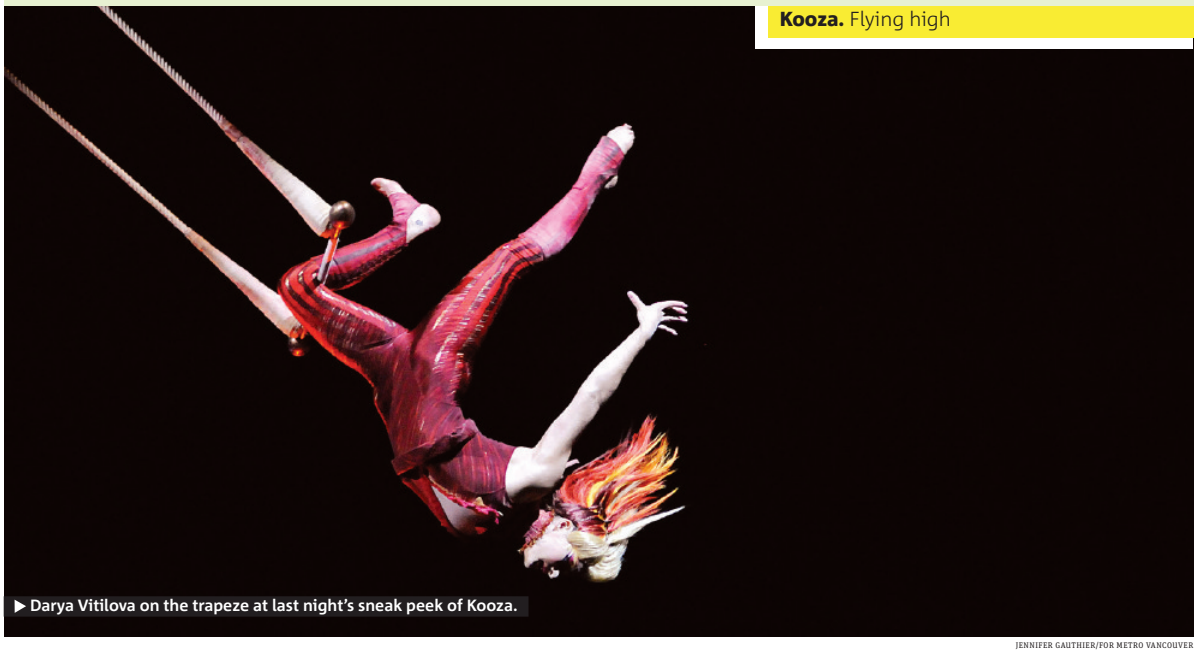

▶ Darya Vitilova on the trapeze at last night's sneak peek of Kooza.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Cirque du Soleil exploring its roots

Cirque du Soleil's latest travelling show to hit Vancouver opens tonight. Kooza is a return to circus origins that combines two traditions — acrobatic performance and the art of clowning.

Attacker used gay slurs, court told

◗ Victim described as a "likeable guy" ◗ Injuries left man forever unable to lead an independent life ◗ Gay community wants "hate crime" label

NATASHA POON
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

A 36-year-old man on trial after a gay man was sucker-punched allegedly said "I'm not a faggot, he deserved it. He touched me," a Vancouver court heard yesterday.

"You just don't forget that," said Kristi McNicholl, a waitress at the Fountainhead Pub where the attack occurred March 13, 2009. She testified she heard the victim's head hit the floor after being punched.

VANESSA YEE/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

▶ Shawn Woodward.

Crown counsel Jacinta Lawton said Ritchie Dowrey was left with a serious brain injury. She accused his attacker, Shawn Woodward, of acting unprovoked.

McNicholl said Woodward walked up to Dowrey, who was standing by a pool table, and punched him without exchanging words.

After the punch, Woodward is said to have walked out chased by patrons and staff. He was held by bouncers from the nearby Celebrities Night Club until police arrived.

Scott Larin, head bartender, said the Fountainhead is a known gay-friendly pub.

He testified that as the accused was being arrested, he said to an acquaintance, "remember what you were suppose to see?'"

Larin said the man responded, "Yeah, he touched him."

The aggravated assault trial is scheduled for four days.

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Lawyers pocket most of ferry-sinking settlement

Dozens of passengers who scrambled off the Queen of the North as the ferry began sinking more than four years ago have settled a class-action lawsuit for $350,000.

But after legal fees are subtracted, more than 40 passengers who will be eligible for the settlement will have only $140,000 to split between them.

The passengers filed the lawsuit against B.C. Ferries after the ferry ran aground south of Prince Rupert in March 2006, killing two people whose bodies were never found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two men seriously injured in bear attack

A 150-pound bear attacked and seriously injured two men camping near Port Alberni, RCMP said yesterday.

The two men, aged 47 and 57, were asleep yesterday morning when the bear attacked the older man inflicting injuries to his skull.

His friend, who was sleeping nearby, fought off the bear, but also suffered deep claw mark wounds.

Both were treated at West Coast General Hospital. Police say they don't know what provoked the attack. JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN

1 news

News on the move

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On the web at metronews.ca

Conrad Black, Florida's most notorious inmate, leaves prison undetected after posting bail. Video at metronews.ca/canada

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Man who said South Park creators faced death for Muhammad drawing faces terror charge. Scan code for local news

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Florence's football club coming to B.C.

- ACF Fiorentina one of Italy's top soccer organizations
- Registration for training camp closes on July 24

JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Coaches of ACF Fiorentina — one of Italy's biggest soccer clubs — are in the Lower Mainland next week to promote the sport and scout local youth at a four-day Fiorentina Camp in Burnaby.

Antonio Salerno, general manger of ACF Fiorentina, said B.C. has a lot of great athletes but when they hit a certain age, they choose sports like basketball or hockey because of the scholarships they provide.

"When an athlete turns 16, they have to make a choice about which sport provides the best opportunities," he said. "There are no professional soccer teams here other than the Whitecaps, and that is why it gets viewed as more of a recreational activity."

He blames the shortcomings of the national team on that lack of training for players in their prime years.

Salerno added the camp offers Fiorentina an opportunity to scout players to bring overseas.

"Burnaby is a central area for soccer in B.C. All we need to do is find the talent and make their dream a reality."

8-16

The Fiorentina camp runs July 26 to 30 for boys and girls aged 8-16. Clinics will also be held to expose recreational coaches to professionals.

Conservatory to stay afloat

The Bloedel Conservatory has been saved. Vancouver Park Board commissioners agreed to allow the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association to take over the money-losing, 40-year-old attraction. The Association said it plans to start by improving plant selection and the tour programs. JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN

Police warn of phone fraud

Police issued a warning after a Tsawwassen woman was scammed into wiring money to a man claiming to be her son. The man said he needed money because he had been arrested out of province for drinking and driving. Police say the fraudster uses the name "John Martin." METRO VANCOUVER

Mountie struck at traffic stop

An RCMP officer escaped injury despite being hit by a car at a traffic stop in Richmond. The officer was sideswiped by an oncoming vehicle near Westminster Highway and Garden City Road.

"The 59-year-old driver stated that she did not see the officer or the marked police car with its emergency lights flashing pulled over to the side of the road," said Cpl. Sherrdean Turley.

The driver was ticketed. KRISTEN THOMPSON

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Art funds area fight

- Kerr plans to paint other threatened West End sites
- St. John's Presbyterian Church is his next project

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

A Vancouver artist yesterday unveiled his painting of a popular heritage building slated for demolition, in the hopes that appealing to city council's sense of nostalgia might keep the wrecking ball at bay.

Tiko Kerr's painting, On A Full Night Of Stars, will be auctioned off to fund projects by West End Neighbours (WEN), an organization opposed to rezoning the neighbourhood for high-rise development without community consultation.

The painting depicts Maxine's Hideaway on Bidwell Street, which was built around 1905 and is slated to become a tower, with only the façade remaining.

"It's time for the community to have a say in its destiny," said Kerr, who has lived in the West End for 30 years.

"Maxine's is a treasure of the West End. Council (will) dispose of heritage sites that provide the cultural context that defines our community."

Randy Helten with West End Neighbours said there aren't many buildings left in Vancouver as old as Maxine's.

He adds that the City of Vancouver should be working to preserve it.

"We think (its pending demolition) is quite a loss for the community and all of Vancouver," Helten said of the site.

WEN says

According to WEN, Maxine's used to be a brothel and was used for rum-running during prohibition.

Prestigious clientele
Rumour has it Maxine's was frequented by actor Errol Flynn.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

▶ Artist and longtime West End resident Tiko Kerr unveils his painting of Maxine's Hideaway in front of the now-boarded up heritage building on Davie Street yesterday.

Beetles eating jobs

More than 11,000 forestry jobs will be lost in B.C. over the next 20 years due to the mountain pine beetle, according to a report released yesterday by Central 1 Credit Union. Another 9,500 indirect jobs are also forecast to be lost.

VANESSA YEE

News in brief

VPD hits water for fireworks

SAFETY. Vancouver Police said they would be out on the water in full force last night making sure boaters were wearing life vests and laying off the booze during the Celebration Of Light.

Sgt. Norm Webster said drinking behind the wheel is no different whether drivers are on pavement or water.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Agreement on psych status

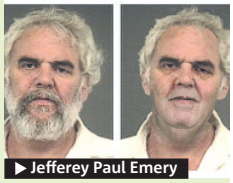
COURT. As a murder trial ended in Rossland, B.C., both Crown and defence lawyers agreed that Kimberly Ruth Noyes was in a psychotic state when she killed a 12-year-old boy. The judge will hand down his verdict Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2-week probe yields charge

GUNS. A 38-year-old Burnaby man has been charged with various firearms offences after an intensive two-week investigation, police said yesterday. Christopher William Chand was allegedly carrying two loaded handguns and a bulletproof vest in his car when stopped by police earlier this month.

KRISTEN THOMPSON



▶ Jefferey Paul Emery

Photos out on wanted man

MISSING. RCMP in North Vancouver yesterday released graphic photos in an appeal for help finding a man who set his wife on fire six years ago. Jeffrey Paul Emery, 54, disappeared during trial and was convicted in absentia in 2004. He's been missing ever since.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Work begins on Canada Place roof sails

Construction has begun to replace the giant sails atop Canada Place, extending the life of the landmark that became a central part of the backdrop at the Winter Olympics.

The five sails will be replaced over the next seven months with a new type of fabric, but they should look exactly the same.

Federal Transport Minister John Baird says the project will create 160 jobs in Vancouver, but the sails will be manufactured in the United States.

The large white sails were erected in 1984 and the new sails are expected to last 30 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$21M

The federal government is spending $21 million from its stimulus program to pay for the replacement, which was announced last fall.

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Listeria warning issued

DATS DELI. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency warns some sliced meat products from Dats Deli may be contaminated with Listeria. The meats carry best-before dates up to and including August 10, 2010. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Black released from prison on $2-million bail

Former media baron goes home to Palm Beach but must head to Chicago Still facing lawsuit from IRS

Conrad Black, liberated but confined to the continental United States, will leave his Florida mansion for a courtroom in Chicago, where the same judge who sent him to jail will outline Friday the conditions of his first taste of freedom in more than two years.

Judge Amy St. Eve set Black free on a $2-million US bond yesterday and gave the one-time Canadian media baron 48 hours to return to the city where he was convicted in 2007 on charges of fraud and obstruction of justice.

The bond money was put up by Black's longtime friend, Roger Hertog, an American conservative financier and philanthropist.

"A little like going back to boarding school, which I somewhat enjoyed nearly 50 years ago."
CONRAD BLACK, ON WHAT PRISON IS LIKE

Within hours of the hearing, Black was released from prison in Coleman, Fla., evading an assembled media horde through a back exit. Hours later, a black SUV similar to one spotted at the prison, entered Black's driveway in Palm Beach, running a gauntlet of photographers.

Black had been behind bars for more than two years after being convicted of defrauding Hollinger Inc. of more than $6 million.

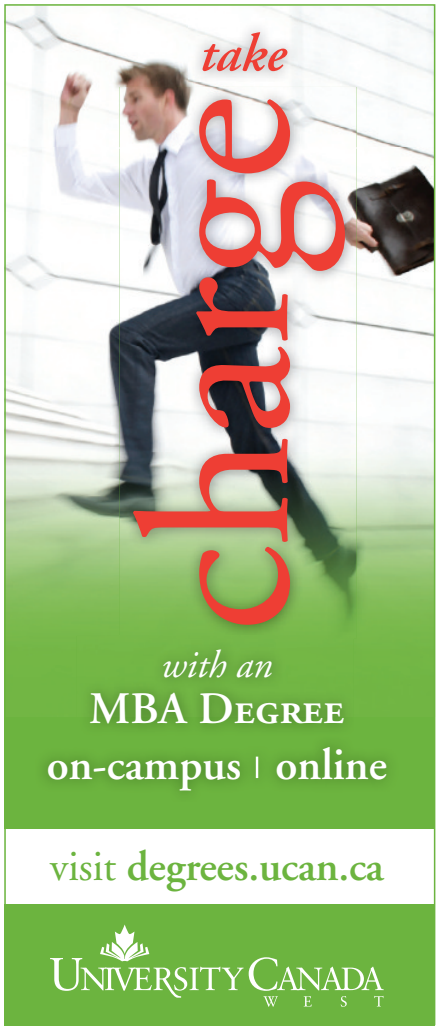
Earlier this week, the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals granted Black's motion for bail following a Supreme Court ruling that narrowed the scope of the "honest services" law that was central to his conviction.

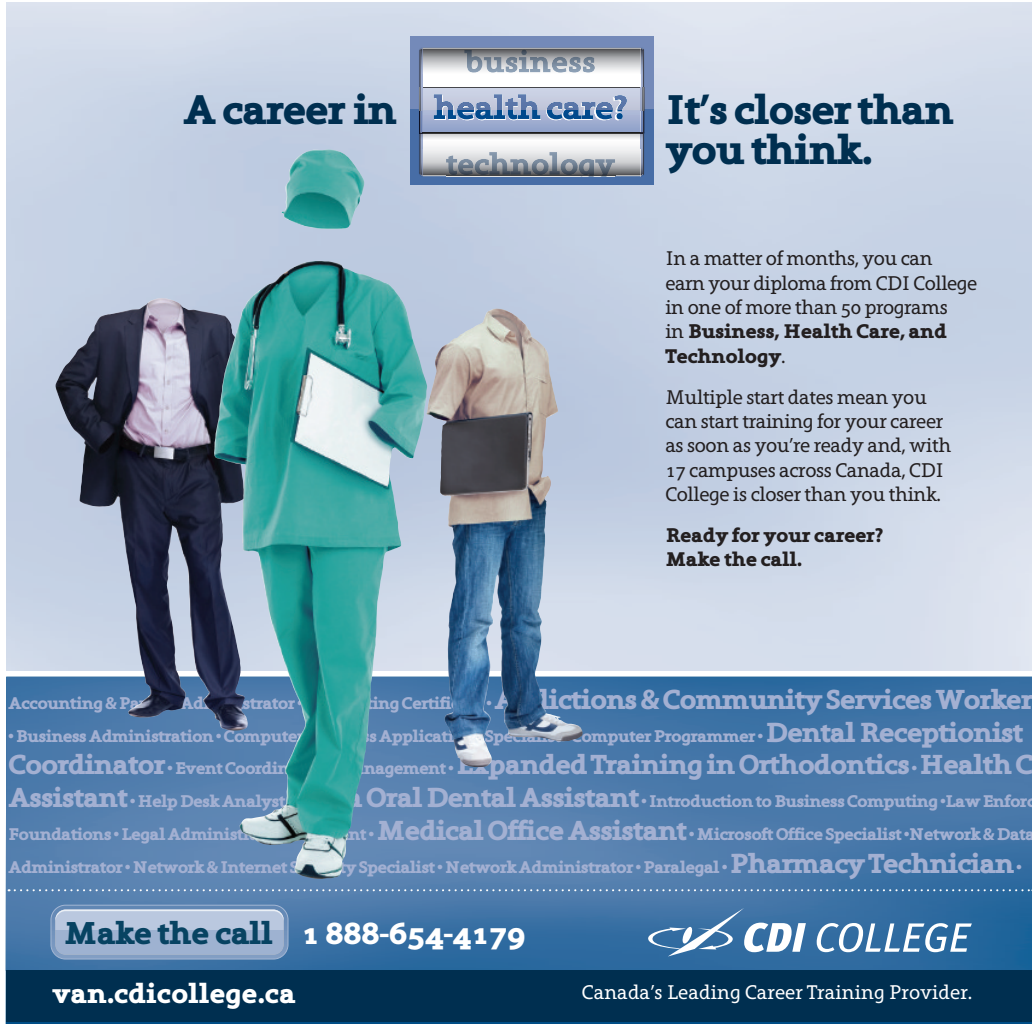
The justices left it up to the lower court to decide whether the conviction should be overturned. That decision has yet to be made.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Conrad Black's attorney, Miguel Estrada, whistles for a taxi outside the federal courthouse in Chicago yesterday.





Storm may hinder work on BP well

High winds could carry oil booms in wetlands • Evacuating ships could delay work up to two weeks • Shell Oil already removing personnel

Tropical rainstorms moving toward the Gulf of Mexico yesterday threatened to shut down undersea efforts to seal BP's ruptured well, interrupting work just as engineers get close to plugging the leak with mud and cement.

Retired U.S. Coast Guard admiral Thad Allen said a weather system brewing in the Caribbean could force crews to abandon their watch over the experimental cap that's been bottling oil below the surface of the water for nearly a week.

Scientists have been scrutinizing underwater cameras and data for days, trying to determine if the cap is displacing pressure and causing leaks underground. If storms keep them from seeing the cap and getting those readings — for up to four days, Allen said — BP could reopen the well to avoid missing signs it is buckling.

"This is necessarily going to be a judgment call," said Allen, the federal government's point man on the spill who will make the ultimate decision.

Forecasters say the storm system likely will move into the Gulf of Mexico over the weekend, although it appears to be weakening. Right now, it has a 60 per cent chance of becoming a tropical depression or storm within the next 48 hours.

Allen said BP and government scientists were meeting to discuss whether the cap could be monitored from the shore.

ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Retired U.S. Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen.

It could take several days to evacuate ships from the well site 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, where the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig exploded April 20, killing 11 and touching off one of America's worst environmental crises.

Allen said an evacuation could delay operations as much as two weeks before work would resume to kill the well at the bottom.

BP crews are in the final stages of readying a relief tunnel before boring into the side of the ruptured well to dump heavy mud and cement, sealing it for good. BP also may pump mud and cement from the top, to make efforts at the bottom easier. That procedure, called a surface kill, would occur before the well is ultimately plugged from below.

Before talk of nasty weather, BP was inching closer to completion of a permanent plug.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China. Floods

▶ A man struggles to make his way through a flooded field yesterday in Tieling County in north China's Liaoning Province.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/XINHUA/YAO JIANFENG

Worst is still to come

More than 1,000 people have died or disappeared in severe flooding in China so far this year, and the heaviest rains are still to come, a senior official warned yesterday.

Scientists exhume dictator Ceausescu

The mystery of where former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were buried moved closer to resolution yesterday after forensic scientists dug up their official graves in a hunt for DNA.

Ceausescu ruled Romania for 25 years with an iron fist before being ousted and executed during the 1989 anti-communist revolt in which more than 1,000 people were killed.

Many Romanians have doubted for years that the Ceausescus were really buried in the Ghencea military cemetery in west Bucharest.

Still, they were shocked by the unannounced early morning exhumation, part of a five-year lawsuit.

"I never thought this would happen," said Ioan Mirichi, 81, a former engineer visiting a family grave early yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

al-Bashir risks travel

Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, who faces charges of genocide, travelled to neighbouring Chad yesterday — the first time he has risked arrest by travelling to a member state of the International Criminal Court. Chadian officials said they would not detain him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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StatsCan head turns into statistic himself

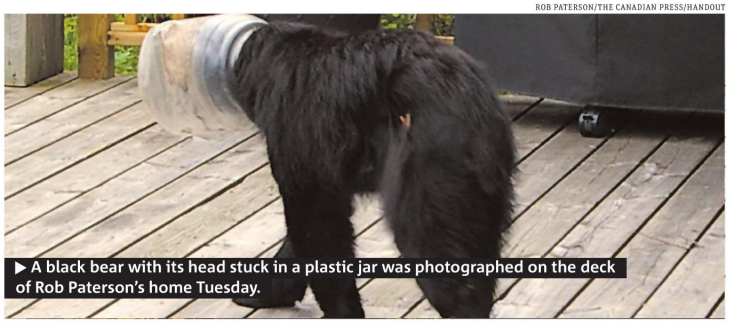
Canada's chief statistician resigned yesterday over the Conservative government's decision to axe the long-census form, part of a spiralling political crisis that has pitted Stephen Harper's cabinet against the provinces, dozens of national organizations and now its own public service.

Throughout the day, rumours had been brewing that longtime bureaucrat Munir Sheikh was preparing to resign as he met with Privy Council officials. Sheikh had cancelled a town-hall meeting on the census with anxious Statistics Canada employees earlier in the day.

Finally, in the early evening, Sheikh posted a news release on the Statistics Canada website. The 62-year-old career bureaucrat made it clear that he could not defend the government's directive to take the 30-year-old long-form census to a voluntary survey in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROB PATERSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT



▶ A black bear with its head stuck in a plastic jar was photographed on the deck of Rob Paterson's home Tuesday.

Elusive bear has jar stuck on head

Concern for animal's health ◗ Officials in northwestern Ontario have set traps without success

A hungry bear with a plastic jar stuck on its head has wildlife officials in northwestern Ontario scrambling to trap the elusive animal, and conservationists crying foul over recycling habits.

Concerns that it's the same bear spotted northeast of Thunder Bay two weeks ago, in the same predicament, has provincial Ministry of Natural Resources officers fearing for its health.

Dehydration is chief among their concerns.

"We know he's weak, he looks very emaciated. He's obviously lost some weight," Ross Johnston, a conservation officer with the ministry, said yesterday.

"It may just be the condensation from his breath inside this container that he's surviving from."

The 30-kilogram bear has evaded ministry officers and provincial police, who have spent two days trying to catch or tranquilize it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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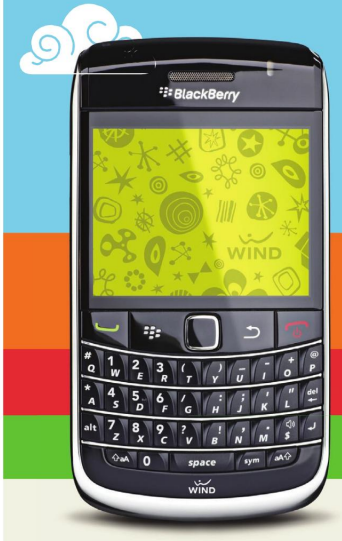

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Somali pirates may be in new territory

NATO commander says pirates' hit on Marshall Islands-flagged vessel is only confirmed attack so far

The commander of NATO's counter-piracy flotilla said yesterday that Somali pirates squeezed by a multinational armada in the Gulf of Aden may be shifting some operations to the southern Red Sea where naval forces lack clear authority to stop them.

In addition to recent attacks in the area, Commodore Michiel Hijmans said there have been "a lot of false alarms" where mariners believed pirates were pursuing them, including occasions where shots were fired.

Foreign navies have U.N. Security Council approval to hunt pirates in Somalia's territorial waters with advance notice using "all necessary means." But the Red Sea lies beyond that area of jurisdiction.

"We are very cautious and we're worried that there might be more attacks in that area."
COMMODORE MICHIEL HIJMANS

Hijmans' vessel is the flagship for the NATO counter-piracy force operating off the Somali coast. It works alongside separate U.S.-led and European flotillas, as well as patrols from India, China and Russia. The international patrols are credited with thwarting attacks by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, a corridor between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean that is home to some of the world's busiest sea lanes.

But international naval forces are reluctant to aggressively pursue the pirates around the tip of Yemen and through the choke point at the southern end of the Red Sea because they would be passing entirely through other nations' waters, Hijmans said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coat hangers. Art

▶ Artist David Mach with his sculpture depicting the Crucifixion.

ANDREW MILLIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Art celebrates the Bible's birthday

A sculpture, which has been made from coat hangers, was displayed in Parliament Square, outside St. Giles Cathedral, yesterday in Edinburgh, Scotland. The piece was created as part of a project to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible in 2011.

Repeated turbulence leads to UA investigation

Passengers were thrown from their seats, drinks and loose items flew through the cabin and oxygen masks dropped from overhead when a United Airlines jetliner took a harrowing drop amid severe turbulence on a cross-country flight on Tuesday.

U.S. federal authorities are investigating the incident. It marked the third time passengers have been injured in turbulence on United flights in recent months.

The Los Angles-bound flight had left Dulles International Airport near Washington with 255 passengers and 10 crew members. It was at about 10,000 metres when it hit turbulence 145 kilometres from Kansas City.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

21

Health officials said 21 people were treated at Denver hospitals and released by yesterday. United said four flight attendants were among the injured.

News in brief

Mounties clear Guergis

OTTAWA. The lawyer for deposed cabinet minister Helena Guergis says an RCMP probe has found "no substance" to any of the issues raised by the Prime Minister's Office.

Guergis was booted from cabinet as status of women minister after allegations of misuse of her office by her husband, ex-Tory MP Rahim Jaffer. Guergis denied any wrongdoing, saying Prime Minister Stephen Harper never made clear what the allegations were.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory MP stepping down

LEAVING. Jay Hill, a longtime Tory MP and the current government House leader, says he will not seek re-election. The 57-year-old Hill told members of his riding executive in British Columbia this week that he's leaving while things are going well.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DROP YOUR MOM'S NAME AND GET A JOB

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

Unemployment has been one of my most humbling experiences, up there with divorce, nearly dying, and contemplating Conrad Black's ego.

I was recently jobless for three months, the longest stretch of my life. It was demoralizing. Not only was I unemployed, I was bad at being unemployed.

If you have ever used the Canada Job Bank, you know there are no jobs in this country unless you are a tradesman, a dental assistant, or a line cook. (Raise your children accordingly.)

So I had to look on foot instead. The manila envelope holding my resumés felt like a badge of shame, an adult dunce cap or a modern-day Scarlet Letter. People could tell I was behind on my debt payments, I was sure of it.

The first place I tried in person was a hospital, and the first words out of my mouth were — this is true — "I'm on the street looking for work. Can you help me?"

They seemed less than intrigued.

Understand that I come from New Brunswick, where job searches involve walking into places and saying, "I'd like to work here." Employers respond with hardball questions such as, "Your mom's name is Margie, right?" (Don't tell anyone, but I had my answer prepped for that one and always got it right.)

"Now I live in Toronto, where most of the interviews involve a tired-looking recruiter sitting next to a stack of resumés the size of the late Gary Coleman and hitting me with a long string of hypothetical and ethical questions."

Now I live in Toronto, where most of the interviews involve a tired-looking recruiter sitting next to a stack of resumés the size of the late Gary Coleman and hitting me with a long string of hypothetical and ethical questions. For example: "If you were on shift and your supervisor was asleep, but he had told you specifically not to wake him, and the supervisor was YOUR DAD, what would you do?"

"My dad's name is Bob," I'd reply. "Do you know him?"

After a couple months of this I started to wear down. But then I broke through and found a great job.

If you look at it one way, I stuck with it even through the dark times and proved to myself I can do whatever I set my mind to.

In another, more accurate way, I got a job without an interview and at a place where my boss knows my mom. Remember: If you're looking for work, her name is Margie.

For past columns, visit www.metronews.ca

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

$2,500 spending spree

Letters & Tweets

We asked: You win $2,500. How would you spend it?

TORONTO. If I won $2,500 I would give $2,000 to my mom in Jamaica to help with her mortgage payments, even though I don't have a job here and also have my three kids to look after with outstanding bills to pay. I just know my mom needs it more.
BEVERLEY SMITH-JERVIS

CALGARY. If I won $2,500 I would spend it by taking my kids to the zoo, going to the Calgary Tower and busing it and C-Training it to all the sites I can show my kids. I would also get a camera to show everyone the good times my kids and I had going around town.
CLAUDETTE GRAHAM

EDMONTON. I know this sounds boring, but I am going into my last year of school to acquire my human resources degree. If I won $2,500 I would use the money to cover my last year of schooling.
SHAENNA BOHNET

TORONTO. I will pay off mine and my wife's Visa bills and treat my kids to some fun. Then put some toward appliances for our new home, which we are moving into in a few months. Simple and sweet.
RICHARD SANICHARA

Money makes the world go around

What song is the soundtrack of your summer?

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Metro Minute with Glengarry Glen Ross

Vancouver native Eric McCormack of TV's Will And Grace is taking to the Arts Club stage tonight to star in David Mamet's Glengarry Glen Ross.

The play centres around four back-stabbing salesmen and their attempts to become top dog in the business world.

Fans are in for a surprise as McCormack's role as a hard-nosed realtor is a shocking contrast to the lovable Will Truman.

The last time McCormack performed at the Arts Club was in 1994 in The Passion Of Dracula.

The show runs until Aug. 22 at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage.

For tickets, call 604-687-1644 or visit Artsclub.com.

JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN

DAVID COOPER/ARTS CLUB

▶ Eric McCormack stars in Glengarry Glen Ross.

News in brief

Encana to up production

CALGARY. Encana Corp. is boosting capital spending by half a billion dollars this year and says it expects to produce substantially more natural gas in 2010 than previously anticipated. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

ExxonMobil boss to move

ST. JOHN'S. The new president of ExxonMobil Canada will be setting up shop in Newfoundland and Labrador instead of Nova Scotia. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	GAS
– 116.55 (11,513.33)	– 0.26¢ ($0.95.45¢ US)	– $1.02 ($76.56 US)	– 0.077¢ ($4.513 US)

Obama makes finance reform bill official

- GOP says bill is unfair to banks
- Regulators must now write rules

U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday signed into law the most sweeping reform of financial regulations since the Great Depression.

The package aims to protect consumers and ensure economic stability from Main Street to Wall Street.

The law, mainly pushed through by Democrats, comes almost two years after the 2008 financial meltdown in the United States that was felt globally.

Obama described them all as commonsense reforms that will help people in their daily life — signing contracts, understanding fees, understanding risks.

Obama called the reforms "the strongest consumer protections in history." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ U.S. President Barack Obama applauds as the financial reform bill is signed into law.

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2 scene

▶ Sandy (Olivia Newton-John) dances with Danny (John Travolta) in a still from the classic musical Grease, which is coming out in sing-a-long version

Interactive films let audiences act out

Participatory film has a long history in independent theatres across the country ● New sing-a-long version of Grease lets fans belt out hits

ADAM NAYMAN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

When the special sing-a-long version of Grease opens this Friday in select markets, it'll give fans of the super-cheesy 1978 musical a chance to dress up as their favourite characters and belt out the hits with the help of onscreen subtitles.

But while the official Grease Sing-A-Long may be having its Canadian premiere, participatory films are hardly a new phenomenon. Such screenings are business as usual at a number of independent theatres across the country.

Ottawa's 78-year-old Mayfair Theatre is one example of a cinema that actively promotes audience interaction with certain titles.

"We encourage people to leave their cellphones on, stop sitting on their hands and go a little bit nuts" says Lee Demarbre, a well-known indie filmmaker (Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter) who also works as one of the Mayfair's programmers. "The idea of getting together in a big group and watching something that you love is very appealing to our fans."

"Even if it's a bad, scratchy print. It's a lot of fun"
LEE DEMARBRE

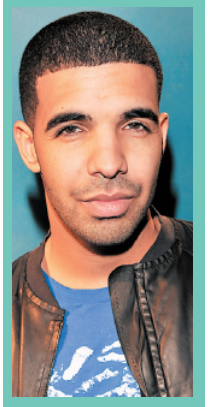
The audience talk-back phenomenon probably began with 1975's The Rocky Horror Picture Show, a film explicitly designed to cultivate a cult following. Alex Chisholm, who works for the Rio Theatre in Vancouver acknowledges that Rocky is a staple but also tries to mix things up a little bit. The theatre's recent midnight-movie selections include the so-bad-it's-good melodrama The Room and also The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly — a '60s Western widely considered to be a true classic.

"Some of these films aren't what you'd call traditionally 'call-and-response'-type titles," he says. "We like trying things out in that Roman Coliseum atmosphere. We give out a discount for best costume, so for (The Good, The Bad and the Ugly) we had 250 cowboys wandering around, cat-calling Clint (Eastwood). "

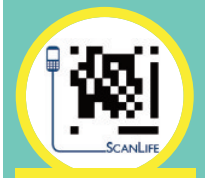
expanding demand

- The Grease Sing-A-Long has been marketed extensively using social media: fans across North America vote online to bring the film to their city.
- Paramount previously used this strategy to open the 2009 horror film Paranormal Activity. They issued an open challenge: if the film received one million votes on eventful.com it would get a nationwide release. It did, and ended up grossing more than $100 million worldwide, making it the biggest indie-horror hit since The Blair Witch Project.

News in brief



Drake's not going to let his Canadian citizenship keep him out of the White House. The Toronto rapper and former Degrassi star says he'd be interested in returning to his acting roots to portray U.S. President Barack Obama in a future biopic.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Celebrity crush: When Taylor Lautner comes to town, teenage hearts flutter

Coco follows father's footsteps

ANNELI WIKSTRÖM
METRO WORLD NEWS

She is Sting's daughter and on the brink of becoming a fashion icon. But Coco Sumner doesn't want to talk about either of these subjects. And I know this because her PR has warned me not to broach either subject.

Coco Sumner has just turned 20-years-old and her career is taking off. In October her debut album The Constant is released. She's had the help of Swedish music producer Klas Åhlund who has previously worked with Madonna, Britney Spears and Robyn. Robyn is also featured on Coco's single Caesar.

"I recorded the album in Stockholm and there will definitely be more collaborations with Klas Åhlund," she tells Metro.

Sumner's summer has been filled with festival gigs and a U.K. tour, soon she'll have a vacation in Stockholm. In August she'll play the Way-Out West festival in Gothenburg.

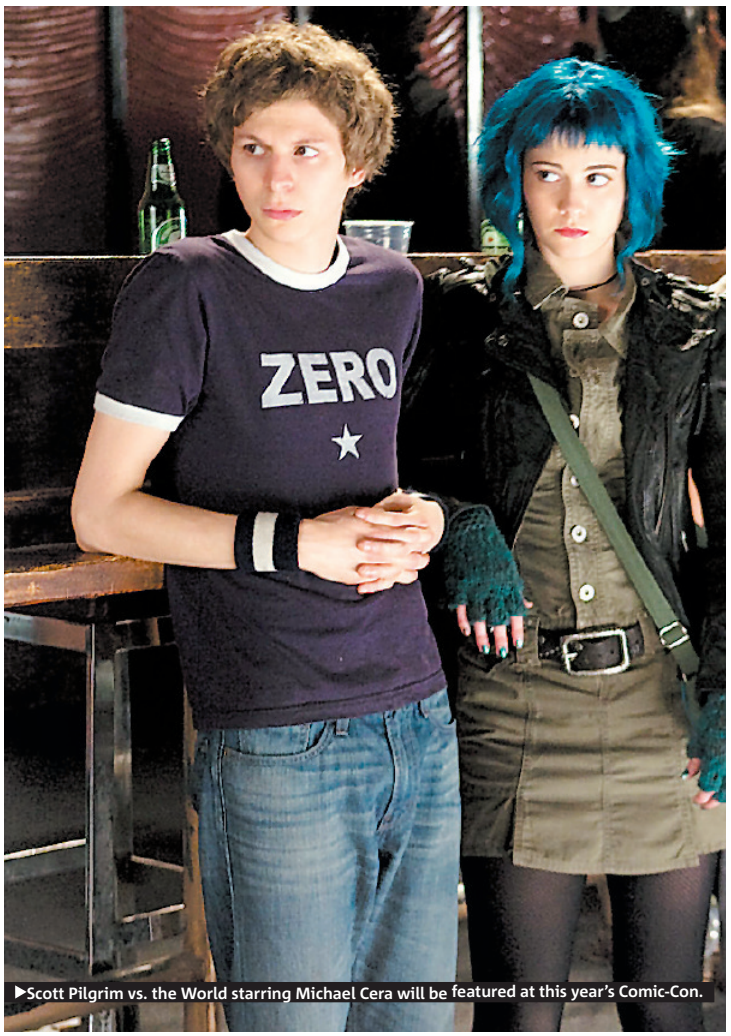
"People are skeptical of me and my music because I have a famous father. And that's why it's important for me that I get to talk about myself in interviews," Sumner explains.

I ask if it's more difficult to be taken seriously because of her famous father. "Yes, I believe so. It's a challenge to get people to listen to my music because it's me and not because where I come from."

When the album is released in October Sumner will get the chance to show what she can do. "It feels really exciting. And I'm a little nervous about how it will be received. But I think it will be fine."

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Coco Sumner



▶Scott Pilgrim vs. the World starring Michael Cera will be featured at this year's Comic-Con.

More than meets the eye at Comic-Con

- Not just comics at world's largest convention
- Marvel Comic with the most adaptations

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS

Hollywood is set to descend once again on San Diego for Comic-Con, an annual five-day event that's become the de facto epicenter for sneak previews of upcoming movies and TV shows, whether they have anything to do with comic books or not.

Several upcoming comic book adaptations are fighting it out for fanboy attention, including next year's Green Lantern with Ryan Reynolds as the famous DC Comics hero. Metro will be in San Diego all week to report on the announcements, parties and general insanity that is Comic-Con.

Marvel Comics has the most movie adaptations presenting at the convention, with star-studded panels packed for Thor and Captain America, which are currently in production.

Fans also expect to hear updates on the Avengers, the planned film to unite those two characters with Iron Man, the Hulk and others.

Though Robert Downey Jr. is set to reprise his Iron Man role in the film, Marvel had a very public falling out earlier this month with Edward Norton, who will not return as the Hulk for the team-up film. Insiders predict Marvel will use Comic-Con as an opportunity to announce who will take on the part next.

At least one movie being presented at the convention has a direct link to the event: Shaun of the Dead star Simon Pegg will present details about Paul, a film about two geeks who meet an alien on their way to Comic-Con.

A notable absence will be anything related to the Twilight.

Twight won't be making an appearance.

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the Bay OPTICAL

Commercial work a lucrative industry for Canadian actors – but not for everyone

Linda Kash has a heavenly gig But some actors fear that attaching their face to a brand could be career suicide

Linda Kash has a heavenly acting gig.

As the impish angel with the handsome manservant in Kraft's Canadian Philadelphia Cream Cheese TV commercials, she's been a familiar face for viewers for the past 16 years — and had a steady paycheque the whole time.

Such a scenario is rare in this country's acting community, she explains.

"I'm well aware that as an actor in Canada, this has been very, very good for me," says Kash, a Montreal native who lives in Cavan, Ont., and has appeared on a slew of series, including Seinfeld.

"Because it's given me recognition that isn't harmful; it has given me, as an actor, income that I can more or less count on or that I have been able to count on, which is kind of unheard of."

Murdoch Mysteries star Yannick Bisson is also finding similar perks with his long-running national commercial campaign.

As a spokesman for CIBC, he's starred in several of their TV and radio spots and his smiling face is plastered all over CIBC posters and on instant-teller screens.

"It's a little more than I bargained for but I couldn't be happier," says Bisson, who hails from Montreal and lives in Toronto.

"The benefits are six zeroes - no, I'm kidding, it's great. It does definitely put you in a different place in your career."

But while some Canadian actors say commercial work pays the rent, others counter that it's not worth the risks.

Toronto native David James Elliott says if you're not a big name and you're just doing a one-off ad, the experience can be a turnoff.

"I was like the commercial king in Toronto before I moved to Los Angeles," explains Elliott, who was known as the Molson Dry guy before he made it big on the series JAG.

These days, he stars on Scoundrels.

"I stopped doing them when I went onto Street Legal because you'd go on these sets and they'd just treat you like a piece of meat with no respect at all and I went, 'You know what? I don't need this anymore, thankfully, and I don't want to be a part of them,'" he says.

Then there's the lack of control over what a commercial will look like.

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▶ 015_
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▶▶ Uma Thurman is out for revenge in Kill Bill after assassins try to kill her on her wedding day.

No more

Angelina Jolie reconfirms her niche for

Angelina Jolie plays an indestructible CIA officer accused of being a Russian spy in Salt.

The role allows her to do so much of what she does so well: kick butt and look impossibly sexy doing it.

Following the Tomb Raider movies, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Wanted, Salt solidifies her standing as the most alluring and reliable female action star working today.

Jolie truly has carved out her own niche.

But many actresses before her have shaken things up as intensely as the big boys, and with a bit of feminine flair.

Sigourney Weaver in Aliens

Weaver made a reputation for herself as fierce in Aliens.

But part of the allure of the performance is that she didn't start out as a bad-ass.

She transformed herself into one out of sheer survival and a ferocious protective instinct.

Her climactic battle against the Queen — with her threatening line, "Get away from her, you bitch! — is so iconic, it's even been re-enacted for DirecTV commercials.

In the 1979 original, directed by Ridley Scott, Weaver means business but she isn't quite the killing machine she turns into under James Cameron's direction in part two.

everybody remembers it," Kash said.

Even when the cringe-inducing ads aren't airing on TV, they often find an afterlife on the Internet.

Canadian actress Evangeline Lilly, for instance, did a series of flirty commercials for a phone-chat line called LiveLinks before she became a star on Lost. Those ads - in which she's lying around the house in tank tops and silky robes, chatting on the phone as candles flicker in the background - are now immortalized on YouTube.

Kash says she doesn't feel her career has been hurt by being the longtime face of Philly Cream Cheese yet.

But her actor-friend Ted Simonett wasn't so lucky with his eight-year role as "The Canadian Tire Guy," which ended in 2006 when the company ditched the campaign after a backlash against his character.

Simonett's bearded handyman role came across to some viewers as irritating and became the subject of a string of biting parodies, both online and on comedy series including "This Hour Has 22 Minutes."

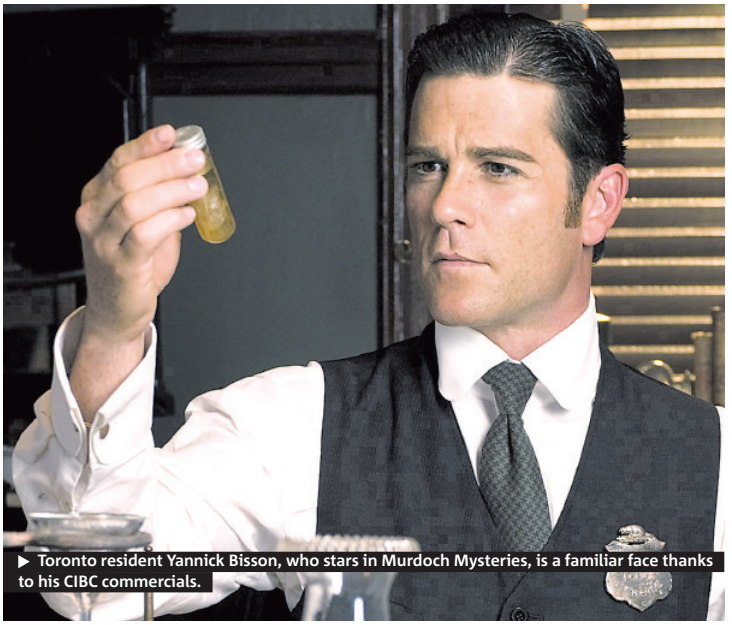
Simonett did not return requests for an interview, but Kash recalls that the parodies seemed harmful to the brand.

"It became kind of a joke," she says.

Kash says actors must take responsibility for what brand they're representing.

Elliot said actors are in danger of linking themselves to the product. "You don't want to be overly representational of a product and then you become more known for that," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Toronto resident Yannick Bisson, who stars in Murdoch Mysteries, is a familiar face thanks to his CIBC commercials.

TV Picks

Intense Indie concert

ROCK OUT. Arctic Monkeys: Live at the Apollo is said to be one of the most intense concerts ever delivered. Filmed in Manchester during the band's 2007 tour, the show features 20 tunes (Sundance Channel).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heart pulsing action

DRAMA. Andy's life is in danger once again on Rookie Blue. As the cops leave the scene of an invasion, they leave Andy behind (Global).

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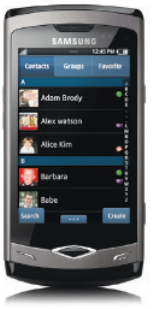

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damsels in distress

action flicks with Salt ◐ But others have fought to be Hollywood's fiercest

Linda Hamilton in Terminator 2: Judgment Day

Nobody would mess with Sarah Conner in Terminator 2: Judgment Day, played by Linda Hamilton. James Cameron does know how to get indelible performances out of strong women.

Similar to Weaver, Hamilton's also already pretty formidable as Sarah Connor in the original Terminator.

But that early shot in the sequel of her doing pull-ups in the state hospital — those sinewy biceps pulsating with each repetition — is just a frightening sight to behold.

Humans, cyborgs ... why would anyone be foolish enough to mess with her?

The fact that she's a mother adds another appealing layer to her character.

Uma Thurman in the Kill Bill movies

Thurman has instinct that leads her down the trail of death and destruction in Kill Bill movies as the bride a.k.a. Beatrix Kiddo.

The Bride is primarily out for revenge against her fellow assassins who tried to kill her on her wedding day.

Her knock-down, drag-out trailer fight against Daryl Hannah is a doozy, but she's just as capable of taking on a pack of 100 samurai-sword wielding thugs.

Quentin Tarantino's films are, hugely stylish homages to the genres he loves, but since he and Thurman crafted the role together, it also feels personal.

Michelle Yeoh and Zhang Ziyi in Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

It might be a bit of a cheat to pick both actresses. But they're so intrinsically intertwined, it's impossible to separate them.

They need and feed off each other — each is the other's equal.

They're both strong, feminine, beautiful and intelligent and athletic. And their fight scenes are lush and hypnotic

Jane Fonda in Barbarella

Sure, go ahead and laugh.

But you can only imagine how difficult it is to operate a laser gun effectively while dressed in go-go dominatrix gear. The boots alone would make it tough to run and chase bad guys.

This wasn't exactly considered a "good" movie when it came out, but it's cultivated a certain kitschy charm. Fonda, under the direction of her then-husband Roger Vadim, was all hair and legs and campy sex appeal as a futuristic, intergalactic warrior goddess. There was even talk about Grindhouse co-director, Robert Rodriguez, doing a remake.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Humans and cyborgs would be crazy to mess with Linda Hamilton in Terminator 2.

Plant takes his 'Band of Joy' on the road with him

Ex-Led Zepplin singer will release his new album — "an adventure" project — this September. Material will include new songs mixed up with Raising Sand favourites, solo work and some Zeppelin.

All eyes are on Robert Plant when he steps on stage — especially his band's.

If you're going to play with the rock 'n' roll icon, you've got to be ready to follow.

"When you're working with Robert you can only rehearse so much and then it doesn't matter anymore because you have to have your eyes glued on him the entire night," guitarist Buddy Miller said in an interview with his tour bandmate, singer-songwriter and guitarist Patty Griffin. "No matter what the arrangement was, he's just all feel."

"It's all spontaneous," Griffin said.

Plant might give a nod or a vocal cue and the band heads off in an unexpected direction. That might be the unifying theme for Plant's latest project, which he calls "an adventure." New album Band of Joy is out in September and he's on the road with a mostly unfamiliar cast of players who happen to have Nashville's deepest street cred.

All this adds up to a show with several surprises for fans — Band of Joy songs mixed in with Raising Sand favourites, solo material and an eclectic collection of Led Zeppelin songs.

His aim for Zeppelin songs like Misty Mountain Hop and Houses of the Holy is to make them feel like they are "crawling out of the swamp, not coming out of the bordello."

"Even the old songs are brand-new," Plant said. "There's nothing being reproduced that's ever been heard the way it's being played now ... it's all different. So we've got a hotbed of about 22 songs, which will grow and grow. And you know, it's just yet another opportunity for me to extend the manacles that are around my ankles, to get further and further out into the world of beautiful music."

Plant wants a revue feel for the tour, his first headlining performances since the Raising Sand tour wrapped 15 months ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Queen guitarist Brian May may have completed his Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 2006, but he still found time to co-author the new book, A Village Lost and Found.

We will read you

Queen guitarist Brian May brings the world of 1850s England back to life in detailed 3-D images Why he has little hope for you, wired human

Guitarist for one of the most legendary bands in rock history; astrophysicist; animal rights activist; scholar of 18th-century stereographic images — Queen's Brian May could easily be mistaken for a character out of a Jules Verne novel.

"I don't even know what I am," May says, chuckling at the suggestion. "I get up in the morning and I do wonder who I am."

For now, the Queen axeman can safely be described as the co-author of A Village Lost and Found with photographic researcher Elena Vidal. The lovingly assembled book collects, for the first time in a century and a half, every image from photographer T.R. Williams' Scenes In Our Village, an idyllic depiction of 1850s rural English life captured in glorious three dimensions.

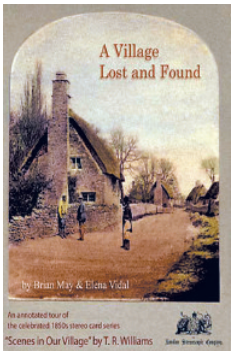
"There is no other document like this, one that chronicles not only a village but the people in it — their thoughts and dreams and aspirations and a whole spirituality — which I think T.R. Williams definitely felt was being threatened by the march of industrialism at the time," May explains. "I relate to that right now, because I think we are being destroyed as human beings by the march of what we laughingly call progress."

"It's just simple boyish appreciation of magic, really," May adds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted:

"It's just simple boyish appreciation of magic, really."
MAY



THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ex-Zepplin singer Robert Plant is on the road with a mostly unfamiliar cast of players.

Highly anticipated Zac Brown Band album coming soon

Frontman says Get What You Give is 'going to be amazing' Group won Grammy for best new artist

MARCK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Zac Brown Band

The Foundation, the major-label debut of the Zac Brown Band, was something special with more than 2 million copies sold and four No. 1 country singles.

Zac Brown says that was nothing compared to what's on the way.

The Atlanta band will release it's highly anticipated new studio album, You Get What You Give, on Sept. 21, and Brown said it's "going to be amazing."

"Every step of it's done the right way and I expect people are really going to love this record and see the depth of our musicianship," Brown said. "We're always growing. Not that we've arrived at any grand finale or anything, but the progress from this last record to this one, it's tremendous and I'm proud of it."

The Foundation remains at No. 2 on the Billboard country albums chart 86 weeks into its release. During the album's slow ride to the top based on the strength of songs like Toes and Chicken-Fried and a live show hailed in all quarters, the band has slowly gained a reputation for genre-defying music. The group won the Grammy for best new artist this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Crow blends soul, country

Sheryl Crow
Album: 100 Miles from Memphis
Label: A&M/Universal
●●●●○

Sheryl Crow has covered a lot of ground in her nearly two decades of making music, but she's yet to tackle soul in a serious way.

Her latest attempts to do that, evoking Al Green style sounds complete with wild horns and booming choirs. She's not the new Sharon Jones though — this is soul done Crow's way. While the songs definitely sound soulful, they're performed through the eyes of pop and country star.

Opener Our Love is Fading sees the Missouri-born songstress wail in a way she hasn't done before, but you can still hear the twang in her voice. That's not a bad thing, it would have been silly if she just copied R&B straight up — and it works for the most part. Summer Day is pleasantly groovy with '60s organs, a funky riffs and catchy pop hook for the chorus. Eye to Eye is the most interesting track here, it's actually a reggae number, which sounds strange on a first listen, but the laid back chorus is grower. It's not Crow's best record, but, as always with her, you're getting a reliable artist who's not afraid to mix things up now and again.

Outstanding track: Summer Day

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Prince
Album: 20Ten
Label: NPG
●●●○○

Prince has never been just another cog in the music machine. From his massive hits, to changing his name to a symbol, to embracing the Internet, then calling it dead and finally releasing his latest record in U.K.'s Daily Mail, you never know what he'll do next. So it's disappointing that 20Ten doesn't push any boundaries. The music is very '80s — there's the peppy TV show theme song sounding Compassion, a run of the mill R&B track in Future Soul Song and the list goes. **Outstanding track:** Compassion

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

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Kim Beggs
Album: Blue Bones
Label: Black Hen
●●●●○

If Kim Beggs was making music when Joni Mitchell and Neil Young were getting their starts, this Yukon-based singer would be huge. Instead she's part of an underappreciated group of folk musicians. Hopefully that will change with this record, which is loaded with lyrics about loss and are backed by smooth slide guitars, delicate acoustics and rich harmonies. **Outstanding track:** Maiden Heart

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Eamon McGrath
Album: Peace Maker
Label: White Whale Records
●●●●○

Power punk folk from the prairies played with the ragged passion of early Crazy Horse. When Edmonton street poet Eamon McGrath shifts into full gear he can sound like Tom Waits swallowing broken glass. But there are also tender moments like acoustic track Ice Breaker that melt your soul. This is McGrath's second indie disc and it shows a prolific songwriting talent bursting with a dark creative force. **Outstanding track:** Cut Knife City Blues

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Nico danced down the aisle

So You Think You Can Dance Canada winner married

Montreal dance heartthrob Nico Archambault has married his longtime girlfriend and fellow hoofer, Wynn Holmes.

The 25-year-old, who won the first season of CTV's So You Think You Can Dance Canada, told The Canadian Press yesterday that the pair tied the knot July 10 in Montreal.

He wouldn't reveal details but confirmed that it was an outdoor ceremony and that the groomsmen included Dance Canada season 1 finalist Miles Faber.

"It was a very small and private event and I'd like to keep it that way," Archambault said on the phone from Montreal.

But was there any dancing involved?

"A lot," he said with a laugh. "We had really, really amazing music so we danced a lot. Everyone did."

Archambault and Holmes have been dating for three years and got engaged shortly after he won Dance Canada in December 2008.

The two also run a choreography company called Street Parade and have worked together in the dance/rock group the Pinup Saints, in which she's a lead singer and keyboardist. The group is set to release a new EP July 31.

Archambault said they haven't had time for a honeymoon yet as they've been busy as consultants and choreographers on the Quebec dance film Sur le rythme, in which he also stars. THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Nico Archambault

Holmes on reserve

Celebrity contractor Mike Holmes is about to wield his hammer to improve some of Canada's aboriginal housing.

Holmes and the Assembly of First Nations are working on a pilot project to build new housing units and retrofit some existing homes on a reserve.

They are also planning to set up a centre where aboriginal community planners can learn how to build sustainable and environmentally friendly housing.

Holmes says he wants to help address the "neglect and poor conditions for housing" in many First Nations communities.

A location for the project, which was announced at the assembly's annual meeting in Winnipeg, is to be chosen in the next few weeks.

The renovation guru and his team tackle shoddy workmanship in people's houses on a weekly television show on HGTV called Holmes on Homes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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LiLo has no quick comeback after jail

Short stay in slammer, but actress required to undergo three months of inpatient rehab

AP PHOTO

Lindsay Lohan's time in jail will be short, but her time away from the public eye will be much longer.

Sheriff's officials say the actress will spend only about two weeks of a 90-day sentence in jail. But her brief time in an isolation cell that has housed other celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Michelle Rodriguez is just one element of her sentence.

Once Lohan is released in August, she is required to report to probation officials within a day. She has also been ordered to spend three months at an inpatient rehab.

That portion of her sentence won't be trimmed like her jail stint by credits for good behaviour.

``It's a straight 90 days,'' prosecutor Danette Meyers said yesterday.

The result is that the ``Mean Girls'' and ``Georgia Rules'' star will be unavailable until late this year to start filming her portrayal of porn actress Linda Lovelace in a biopic. She will be equally unavailable to promote her role as a gun-toting nun in Robert Rodriguez's ``Machete,'' which marks her return to the big screen in September.

It amounts to lost time for the once-promising actress, whose movements have been restricted since she missed a court date in May. It remains to be seen whether Lohan can replicate a post-jail rebound similar to Michelle Rodriguez, who had a prominent role in last year's blockbuster ``Avatar'' and appears in ``Machete.''

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's hot and a humanitarian, Clooney may be perfect man

George Clooney will be recognized for his humanitarian efforts at the Emmy Awards.

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences will present the 49-year-old actor with its Bob Hope Humanitarian Award at the ceremony next month.

Clooney is being honoured for the Hope for Haiti U.S. TV special, which is nominated for an Emmy award, and his efforts to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina and raise awareness about genocide in Darfur.

John Shaffner, chairman and chief executive of the TV academy, said Clooney was "an obvious choice" for the award because he used the power of television to move people to act.

Clooney is the fourth recipient of the honour and will receive the award Aug. 29.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurray, Goslins' kids can work ... oh, wait

Pennsylvania's labour department is defending its decision to issue work permits to Kate Gosselin's sextuplets for the reality show Kate Plus 8.

A statement from the Department of Labor & Industry says the children are not being "unlawfully exploited" by the filming at their home in Wernersville.

Labour officials said yesterday the permits protect the children from working too many hours and ensure they receive earnings from the TLC show.

Murt maintains the permits are illegal. He says the labour department must seek a ruling from the attorney general.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Talking points

A tea by any other name

TASTE OF GAGA? Tea company Twinings is determined to get into business with Lady Gaga and have even started working on a special blend of tea inspired by the singer, according to the Sun. "Her management have received a load of offers from major tea companies, but Twinings are the frontrunners," a source says. "They want to launch a new tea with her face on it. Names like the Taste Of Gaga are being batted about. The idea is to have tasting sessions in which she would participate." Gaga is reportedly a huge fan of the hot beverage, having a cup with every performance.

Hey, when you're hot ...

NO SURPRISE Megan Fox isn't having trouble finding work after her falling out with Transformers director Michael Bay. She's reportedly close to closing a deal to appear in Eminem's new video for the song Love the Way You Lie, which also features Rihanna, according to E! News.

METRO WORLD NEWS

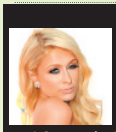
Megan Fox

Celebrity tweets

Justin Bieber [@justin bieber] alot of u keep saying i dont do flirty tweets anymore

Lance Bass [@lance bass] I mean, I know Mel Gibson has issues - but radar online makes me sick the way they are exploiting those tapes. It's none our business!

Christina Apple gate [@1capple-gate] Mother effer! I spelled avocado wrong.....moving on.



Paris Hilton [@Paris Hilton] The best things in life aren't things.

Strong women freak him out

Robert Pattinson admits he's intimidated by Twilight co-star and rumored girlfriend Kristen Stewart, which can make for an awkward workplace, he says.

"Kristen is always really good but also clearly speaks her mind. That can be a bit uncomfortable. After we shoot a scene she sometimes looks at the director and says, 'Let's do that again,'" he says, according to Hollyscoop.

"If I did that she would probably kill me! She would probably say something like, 'Shut up! The scene was perfect!'"

METRO WORLD NEWS

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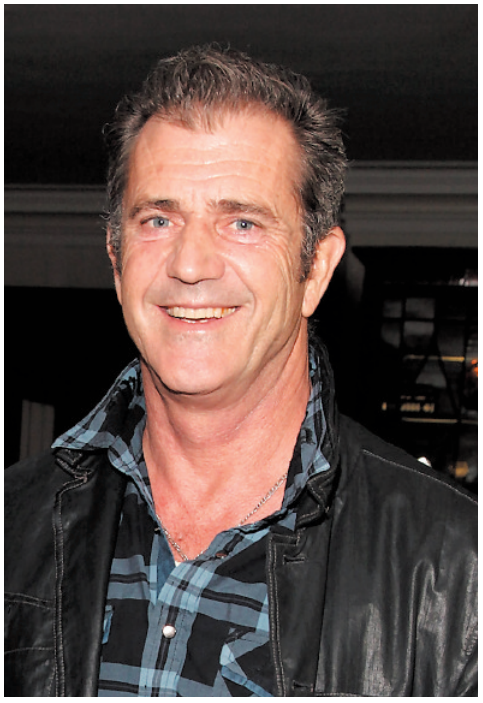

Gibson claims extortion

Detectives looking into academy award winner's allegation against ex

Sheriff's detectives in Los Angeles are checking extortion allegations against Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says the agency is looking into whether Russian singer Oksana Grigorieva may have tried to extort the Academy Award-winner.

He declined to offer any other details on the inquiry.

Detectives earlier this month interviewed Grigorieva after she claimed Gibson abused her during an incident in January.

A spokesman for Grigorieva declined comment Wednesday.

Gibson and Grigorieva are locked in a bitter custody dispute over their infant daughter.

No arrests have been made, and neither has been charged with any crimes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fear not, Swift releasing third album this fall

Taylor Swift will release her third album, Speak Now, worldwide on Oct. 25.

She announced it to her fans yesterday through a live web chat.

It's been two years since Swift released her sophomore album Fearless. She says, "You've got to give yourself a little bit of time to live a lot of things so you can write about a lot of things.''

Swift explains that the title, Speak Now, is the theme, and that "track by track, each song is a different confession to a different person.

She wrote all 14 tracks herself. The first single, Mine, will be released Aug. 16. Swift also plans to launch a world tour following the release.

Fearless was the top-selling album of 2009 and earned Swift every major award, including four Grammys.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Stalker hunting Jen

Jennifer Aniston is the latest Hollywood star to have to deal with a stalker. Jason Peyton, an " obsessed, mentally ill and delusional stalker with a history of violence and criminal stalking," was found prowling near Aniston's home with a sharp object, a bag, an a roll of duct tape, according to TMZ.

METRO WORLD NEWS

More Palin drama

When Levi Johnston and Bristol Palin tie the knot, there may be one notable absence: The mother of the bride. Sarah Palin is refusing to attend the planned celebration, according to Popeater. "Everyone would kill to get an invite … It's just too bad that her mother has refused to attend. Although I can't say I blame her after everything that boy has put her through," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bieb still their tween hearts

Four-time NBA champion Shaquille O'Neal has found a worthy new adversary: Sixteen-year-old Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber. The teen idol will appear in the next season of Shaq Vs, which will debut Aug. 3 on CTV. The reality show features the seven-foot-one, 325-pound O'Neal taking on various celebrities and athletes at their chosen professions. O'Neal will also take on comedians Penn and Teller, boxer Shane Mosley and NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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3 life

How to wear beige

Nude, beige, taupe, mushroom, tan, whatever you want to call it, there's no escaping the sensible colour for summer and fall. Here's how to give the potentially boring trend some oomph.

CATWALKING

▶ Chloe autumn/winter 2010.

Sandro shirtdrss, $325, netaporter.com

Topshop booties, $180, topshop

KENYA HUNT
STYLE@METRONEWS.CA

Play with tonality

It's a colour that brings to mind 1980s rayon dresses found in thrift stores and your mom's old 1980s power suits.

Increase the youth factor by working in other neutral tones like cream and blush (another key colour of the season) the way Stella McCartney did for her spring/summer '10 collection.

It gives the beige trend a hint of the unexpected.

Just be very careful in your choice of colors. Pick the wrong palette for your skin tone and you'll looked washed out or ashy.

Fully commit to it

Head-to-toe beige can look perfectly chic in a 1970s kind of way. The key to pulling the full-on tan look off is the silhouette. Go for a slightly golden version of the color in a loose, easy silhouette like the Chloé look pictured. Let your bag and shoes give the outfit a pop of colour.

Limit it to your accessories

If the colour doesn't work with your complexion, don't force it. Experiment with the trend through accessories instead, using a great beige handbag or shoe to tone down a vibrant primary coloured dress, blouse or trouser.

News in brief

This summer, Birkenstock sandals are back with a vengeance. And they're not just for the older gent, as younger men appear to be proudly sporting them the world over. Pictured: Birskenstock, $70, birkenstock.com.

RICHARD PECKETT

Find out how David Yurman took an unconventional route to jewelry world

Men's picks

Uniqlo Smooth Dry innerwear

We all know that the morning commute is simply not congenial to keeping your neatly pressed shirt looking fresh and sweat-patch free. And it's perhaps even less acceptable to roll into the office floundering in your own perspiration. So what's the answer? There is now a very affordable solution, in the form of Uniqlo's smooth dry v-neck or crew neck innerwear. These garments remove moisture and create a breathable layer for your skin, keeping you dry and sweat patch free.

UNIQLO TEE

$8, uniqlo.com

RICHARD PECKETT

New line and store on horizon for Wang

Award-winning American designer recalls fashion diaster while dabbling in trends as a child. Today he's at the height of his career with an edgy eponymous label that receives accolades from A-list fans and critics alike.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alexander Wang winner of the Swarovski Award for Accessory Design poses during the 2010 CFDA Awards.

At 26, Alexander Wang has made a rapid ascent in the style ranks, racking up A-list fans and accolades for his cool, edgy creations along the way.

But when first dabbling in crafting his own custom designs as a child, his execution didn't quite match up with his levels of ambition and enthusiasm.

Wang recalled being in sixth or seventh grade when he first tried to sew himself a pair of pants.

"It was horrible. I wore it to school the next day and the whole thing kind of ripped apart on me in class," he said, laughing in an interview Wednesday at Holt Renfrew prior to an in-store appearance in support of his pre-fall and fall collections.

"It was a very embarrassing moment, but I always like telling that story because that was a self-taught lesson on how not to make your own pattern."

The San Francisco-born designer's sartorial skills and style savvy have clearly come a long way within a short time. Wang moved to New York at age 18 to attend the Parsons School of Design, landing internships with the likes of Teen Vogue and designer Marc Jacobs.

"The idea behind it was it's just about creating a portion within the collection that lives within ready-to-wear that is really built around kind of our staples and our classics "
ALEXANDER WANG, DESIGNER

By his sophomore year, Wang was already designing the first collection for his eponymous label, and launched his full women's line in 2007, selling to more than 200 stores.

With footwear, handbag, eyewear and ready-to-wear collections already part of his burgeoning brand, Wang is now forging ahead with the launch of a standalone store, slated to open in his home base of New York by year's end.

"The idea behind it was it's just about creating a portion within the collection that lives within ready-to-wear that is really built around kind of our staples and our classics and pieces that people have really recognized," Wang said of the line, noting that it's centred around more tailored but non-business-wear attire.

But when it comes to his success at such a young age, the affable, award-winning designer insists it's far from an individual effort and credits support from his team and family.

He was also able to pull off a rare feat during a turbulent economy, seeing his business growth triple in the last year.

Wang said it's all about creating a product with a strong point of view and an accessible price point, noting the range in his line spans from $50 T-shirts to $3,000 dresses.

"It's never been about, 'OK, the economy is going down, everything has to shift this way,'" he said.

"But I think (it's) to be able to offer your line in a way that you're still attending to whether our customer wants that very easy, buy-it-in-five-colours item or that piece they get super, super excited by and then they'll invest that money into."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How-to

HATS: THE WAY TO WEAR THEM

"Hat wearing is always the choice of the wearer. Wear a trilby at a different angle — tilted back to look nonchalant and relaxed, straight to look sharp and clean cut or angled to the side for a different mood again," says Janet Taylor.

For sizing advice visit: lockhatters.co.uk.

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As sustainability becomes a growing priority for everyday people, greener living is possible with considerate details and conscious choices

▶ Here are some shot from the latest project, James, by Cressey Development.

It's all the little things that make it great

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5.79%	BMO	2.60%
5.79%	CIBC	2.60%
5.89%	HSBC	2.75%
5.99%	ICICI	4.00%
4.39%	ING	2.15%
5.79%	RBC	2.60%
5.79%	SCOTIA	2.50%
5.79%	TD	2.60%
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SUITE TALK

LINA TOYODA
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

In the heart of southeast False Creek, the latest project James by Cressey Development looks to the little things that add up to an eco-conscious state of mind.

"The tagline being 'thoughtful details,' it's been our MO to make sure we do the small things right," says Development Manager David Evans of Cressey Group.

"And I think that's seen within the suites with a built-in entertainment niche to tuck away your TV, and utility, cutlery and utensils drawer organizers already included.

"Recycling and waste bins under the sink are pre-organized to separate different materials to help deal with some of the day-to-day issues you and I would have to encourage that kind of mentality that much further," he said.

The interiors come in two colour schemes, Sunday morning and Saturday night, and feature modern design finishes like hardwood floors, wooden cabinetry and stone countertops.

Efficient storage ideas like wine shelving on the island in the kitchen, and built-in medicine cabinets in the bathrooms are the kind of details that set James apart.

The rooftop deck has over 5,000 square feet of green space with community garden plots and a children's play area. A glass covered observatory or the "UP Lounge" on the roof is also open to all residents complete with an indoor kitchen, games room, couches and big screen TV.

With 29 floor plans, Evans says there's something for everyone at James, in its collection of 155 city homes and flats in one of Canada's leading sustainable communities.

The lowdown

- James by Cressey Development Group
- False Creek: A greener community
- Located at West 1st Ave. and Crowe St.
- LEED silver standard
- Thoughtful details and careful planning
- One + den, two- and two-bedroom + den homes
- Rooftop garden and lounge
- Fitness facility, steam room and sauna
- Car share program
- On-site concierge services
- Prices start at $387,000
- Ready for move-in summer 2012
- Presentation Centre at 289 West 2nd Ave.
- Open noon to 5 p.m. daily except Fridays
- jamesliving.com

JOAN CHANG/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

▶ Wild sockeye salmon burger on bannock

West Coast fare excites the senses

LUNCH RUSH

JOAN CHANG
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

On July 20 some 139 years ago B.C. joined confederation. It's a bit of trivia and a reason to seek out some "authentic" B.C. food.

That means First Nations. Tucked along West Broadway you'll find Salmon 'n' Bannock, which not only serves First Nations cuisine but sources organic ingredients wherever possible.

Most importantly, if you're going to call yourself Salmon 'n' Bannock, you better serve some excellent salmon and bannock. In this, they've definitely succeeded.

Salmon 'n' Bannock
1128 West Broadway
604-568-8971
Rating 3.5 out of 5
Reservations: available for parties of six or more

I had the wild sockeye salmon burger on bannock ($15). The warm, buttery quick bread is the perfect place to hide the moist and perfectly cooked salmon. The caper mayo had me licking my utensils. Discreetly, of course.

Bonus: if you can't stick around for lunch, you can get it to go. The only miss is a side dish of steamed fiddlehead ferns ($6) that sorely needs seasoning.

Portions are smaller than usual but the flavours are worth it. You're paying for quality. This is real fare to be proud of.

Crunchy Tortilla Salad

Ingredients :
Top Sirloin Tostada
- 500 g (1 lb) beef top sirloin grilling steak, about 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick
- 8 whole-wheat flour tortillas, each about 18 cm (7-inch) in diameter
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) vegetable oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped red onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 500 ml (2 cups) each quartered mushrooms and grape tomatoes, halved
- 500 ml (2 cups) fresh or thawed corn kernels
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded lettuce
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) minced fresh coriander or parsley
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Marinade/Dressing
15 ml (1 tbsp) each vegetable oil and grated lime rind
50 ml (1/4 cup) lime juice (about 2 limes)
30 ml (2 tbsp) minced fresh coriander or parsley
15 ml (1 tbsp) chili powder
4 large cloves garlic, minced

Preparation:

1. In a bowl, combine oil, lime rind, lime juice, coriander, chili powder and garlic. Set aside 45 ml (3 tbsp) of the mixture in a large bowl for the dressing. Rub remaining mixture over both sides of steak. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 4 hours.
2. Meanwhile, oven toast tortillas. Spray both sides of tortillas with cooking spray; place in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 10 minutes or until crisp and lightly browned.
3. Pat steak dry; season with salt and pepper. Grill over medium-high, about 5 minutes per side for medium-rare. Let rest before slicing.
4. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high, heat 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the oil. Add onion and garlic; cook until onion is softened, about 4 minutes. Add mushrooms; cook until all liquid is released, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium; add tomatoes and corn.
5. Meanwhile, whisk remaining oil into reserved marinade to complete the dressing. Thinly slice steak; add to dressing along with mushroom mixture, lettuce and coriander, tossing gently to coat. Pile 125 ml (1/2 cup) of the beef mixture on each tortilla to serve.

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4 sports

Kovalchuk left in limbo by NHL

Ilya Kovalchuk is no closer to figuring out his future than he was when NHL free agency opened three weeks ago.

Kovalchuk's landmark 17-year, $102-million US contract with the New Jersey Devils was rejected by the NHL, which ruled that the longest deal in league history violated its salary cap.

Where the high-scoring forward — the biggest prize on the free agent market —will land now is anyone's guess.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in a statement yesterday the Devils, Kovalchuk and the players' association still have several options if they choose to restructure the deal.

Until then, Daly said "the player is not entitled to play under the contract."

"We are extremely disappointed that the NHL has decided to reject the contract of Ilya Kovalchuk," Devils president and general manager Lou Lamoriello said in a statement.

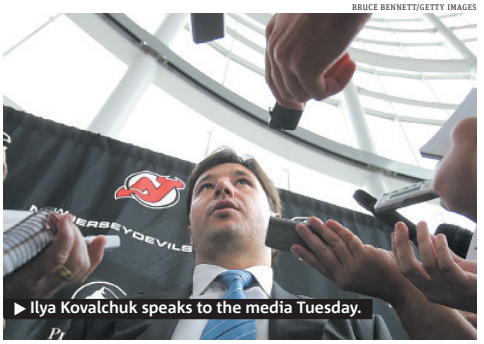
"The contract complies with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement."

"We will have no further comment until the process outlined in the CBA is complete."

Kovalchuk's agent, Jay Grossman, also said yesterday he wouldn't comment until the matter is resolved.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Ilya Kovalchuk speaks to the media Tuesday.

Injury dogs Weir as Open kicks off

◗ Golfer intends to play, despite tendinitis ◗ Skipped pro-am

It was probably the one time Mike Weir would rather have been talking about trying to end the country's long drought at the RBC Canadian Open.

Instead, the popular lefty from Bright's Grove, Ont., found himself discussing a bout of tendinitis in his right arm on the eve of the national championship. Weir's pro-am round came to an abrupt yesterday when he walked off the course to receive treatment in the PGA Tour's fitness trailer. Before leaving St. George's Golf and Country Club, he made it clear that he plans to return for his opening-round tee time this afternoon (TSN, 12 p.m.)

"I can't see myself withdrawing," said Weir. "I mean, I'll play through it. I have next week off. Today in the pro-am it was bothering me on every shot I hit and I thought it was a good time to take it easy."

The nagging injury flared up during last week's British Open and puts another wrinkle into Weir's attempt to become the first Canadian to win at home since Pat Fletcher in 1954.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

11

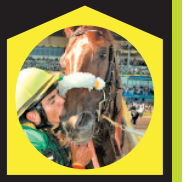
Eleven of the top 30 in the PGA Tour's FedExCup standings have entered, including Paul Casey, Retief Goosen, Tim Clark, Camilo Villegas, Hunter Mahan and Luke Donald.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mike Weir winces during yesterday's pro-am.

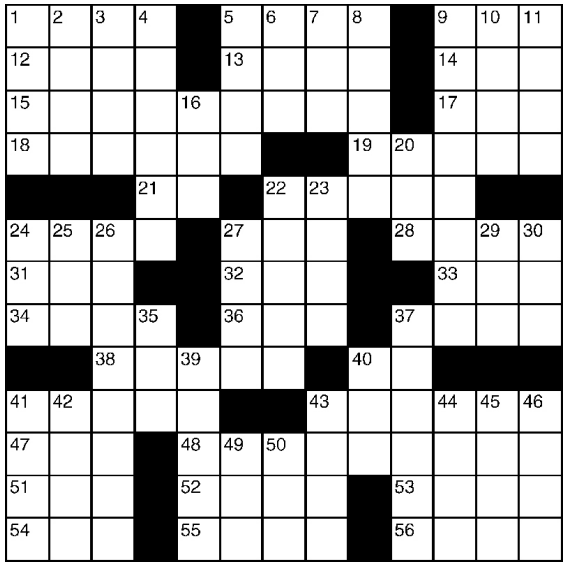
Up and down

Big Red Mike
The Queen's Plate champion was named the 6/5 early favourite for the $500,000 Prince of Wales Stakes Sunday in Fort Erie, Ont.



Casey Printers
The Lions QB will miss tomorrow's game versus the Argos with a knee injury.

Crossword



Across

1 Bullets and such
5 After-dinner remark?
9 Moment
12 Black shade
13 Vicinity
14 Painter's medium
15 Data-storage device
17 To and —
18 Goya, for one
19 Performed
21 Indefinite article
22 Paycheck extra
24 Final
27 Storefront sign abbr.
28 Nonsense
31 Altar affirmative
32 Conger, e.g.
33 Gorilla
34 Couch
36 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
37 Fix, in a sense
38 Afternoon hour
40 Roman Dalmatian count?
41 Diamond side
43 Power problem
47 Past
48 Toil
51 Scoundrel
52 "Zounds!"
53 Abrades
54 Golf gadget
55 Umps
56 Eyelid woe

Down

1 Rue the run
2 Castle protector
3 "Walking in Memphis" singer Cohn
4 Hackneyed
5 Roseanne of sitcom fame
6 Mentalist Geller
7 Gun the engine
8 Hymn
9 Flattery
10 Green land
11 Lummox
16 Lair
20 Young Scout
22 Silver-scaled fish
23 Scandinavian city
24 Fleur-de- —
25 Big bother
26 Less explicit than it could be
27 Aid
29 Resort
30 Attention-getter
35 Shock and —
37 Raga musicmakers
39 Something else
40 — -de-sac
41 Datum
42 Malaria symptom
43 Probability
44 Touch
45 Pass
46 Gaelic
49 Census stat
50 U.K. fliers

▶ Yesterday's answer

K	E	L	P		M	A	C		O	M	A	N		
I	R	E	S		A	S	H		B	I	L	E		
W	A	T	E	R	S	K	I		S	L	O	E		
I	S	S	U	E	S		P	E	E	K	E	D		
			D	I	E		S	A	R	D				
E	T	C		N	U	B		U	V	U	L	A		
T	H	U	S		R	E	S		E	D	I	T		
H	Y	P	E	S		D	E	C		S	E	E		
		O	D	O	R		R	A	P					
I	N	F	U	S	E		A	L	L	U	D	E		
R	O	T	C		P	O	P	M	U	S	I	C		
K	N	E	E		A	R	E		T	E	C	H		
S	E	A	S		Y	E	S		O	R	E	O		

Sudoku

	6	2				1		
			8	2				3
9					1			4
		9	1		6		5	
	2			8			3	
	4		2		7	6		
1			3					2
8				5	2			
		7				5	9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	5	1	2	7	6	4	9	8
4	8	7	1	3	9	5	6	2
6	9	2	8	4	5	7	1	3
5	6	4	3	9	1	8	2	7
7	2	9	6	8	4	3	5	1
8	1	3	5	2	7	9	4	6
9	3	8	4	1	2	6	7	5
1	7	5	9	6	8	2	3	4

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Manning, it has been a year in the making but now that we are together I am the luckiest girl in the world. And we are proof that opposites do attract. I LOVE YOU!
-SARAH

When I came to meet you for the first time X-mas Eve. When our eyes met you had a piece of my heart. Now you have my soul. I want you in my life always. You are truly special.
ANGELA

MIMI! Finding you was the best thing that has ever happened. Be mine forever!
XIAO WEIWEI

Sebastian, After much philosophizing, I believe that the day we are separated will be my apocalypse. So I'll stand by you and love you always,
KEIDI

The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
21° / 14°	24° / 16°	25° / 15°

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 19 One of the best times of the year begins for you today as the Sun moves into Leo and no matter how depressed you may have been feeling of late you will cheer up considerably.

♉ Taurus April 20-May 21 Go out of your way over the next 24 hours to remind loved ones how much they mean to you. Tell them loud and tell them often.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Put your worries behind you and start having fun. Forget about everything that does not bring a smile to your face.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 The simple fact is you have been spending far more than you can afford. Time to cut back a bit.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 A new solar year begins for you today and there is no reason why it should not be the best one ever.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 The next few weeks may not be easy but there is no reason why they should be difficult either. Keep reminding yourself how much you have to be thankful for and keep your eye on your ultimate goal. It's not so far away.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Do you need a rest? You certainly deserve one. No one will complain if you ease off the pace today, and if you get together with some of your laidback friends you'll have a great day together doing next to nothing.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 As the Sun crosses the midheaven angle of your chart today you are sure to be put to the test in some way, but your Scorpio self-belief will see you through no matter how stiff the challenge.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to expand your horizons and find ways to get more out of life. That's not, however, an invitation to be reckless.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You may not want others to know about your financial needs but if you don't open your mouth they won't be able to help you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 The Sun moves into your opposite sign of Leo today, so partnership matters will be of the utmost importance. It may be tempting to make snap judgments about people but do you really know what motivates them?

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You would be wise to make changes to your schedule today, changes that reflect the fact that you are feeling a bit run down physically and mentally. You have pushed yourself hard these past few weeks, so give yourself a break.
SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

MISHA JAPARIDZE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jim Pattison Hyundai

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GL Sport model shown

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CITY: 7.2L/100 KM.[†] HWY: 5.7L/100 KM.[†]

2010 ELANTRA L

Limited model shown

CITY: 7.8L/100 KM.[†] HWY: 5.6L/100 KM.[†]

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WAS ~~$28,459~~ NOW $26,059[*]

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Limited model shown

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